© **PG Music Inc.**

Phone. 250-475-2874 or 1-888-PGMUSIC

Fax. 250-475-2937 or 1-877-475-1444

Internet: www.pgmusic.com

Email: info@pgmusic.com

Tech Support: 1-250-475-2708 or e-mail support@pgmusic.com

Welcome to the Band-in-a-Box Melodist™

Feel like composing a brand new song? Using the "Melodist" feature in Band-in-a-Box, you can compose a new song in the style of your choice - complete with intro, chords, melody, arrangement, and an original title. All you have to do is pick from one of the many "Melodists" available and press the [OK] button. The Melodist will automatically generate a completely new song and arrangement in any given style.

The Melodist will also generate a melody over an *existing* chord progression, including ones you type in yourself. Once the song is generated, the chords and melody are part of the regular Band-in-a-Box tracks. They can be edited, printed, saved as MIDI file, etc. You can also auto-regenerate any *part/section* of a song to further refine your compositions.

Installation

> **Note:** since this installation changes some program files, close down all programs (e.g., Band-in-a-Box) before installing. If you have modified or created your own Melodists, you should also back up the Default.MEL file found in the program folder (e.g., C:\bb).

Installing the Melodist Sets on Windows® XP:

1. Insert the Band-in-a-Box Melodist Disc Set CD-ROM into the CD-ROM Drive. The contents of the CD-ROM should display on your screen.

2. Double click on the **Melodist.exe** or the **Setup.exe** icon within the window displaying the contents of the CD-ROM.

3. Follow the on-screen instructions which will guide you through the rest of the installation process. This will copy all of the Melodist files to your Band-in-a-Box directory/folder (e.g., usually C:\BB).

Installing the Melodist Sets in Windows® 9x:

1. Insert the Band-in-a-Box Melodist Disc Set CD-ROM into the CD-ROM Drive. The contents of the CD-ROM should display on your screen.

   (Note: If the CD-ROM's contents window fails to appear, double click on **My Computer** on your desktop and then select the appropriate drive icon to display the CD-ROM's contents.)

2. Double click on the **Melodist.exe** or the **Setup.exe** icon within the window displaying the contents of the CD-ROM.

3. Follow the on-screen instructions which will guide you through the rest of the installation process. This will copy all of the Melodist files to your Band-in-a-Box directory/folder (e.g., usually C:\BB).

Automatic Songs in Hundreds of Styles

Band-in-a-Box includes Melodist Set #1 with a large variety of Melodists in many styles, and we are continually adding new ones. These specialty add-on Melodists are available for purchase separately. Visit our web site at www.pgmusic.com for news about the latest additions.

- Melodist Set #2 – **Country, Pop and EZ Listening**
- Melodist Set #3 – **Bluegrass**
- Melodist Set #4 – **Jazz**
- Melodist Set #5 – **Bluegrass 3/4 and Irish 12/8**

Tutorial: Making Automatic Songs with the Melodist

In addition to creating original new songs and melodies, this feature can be a powerful practicing aid for sight reading and improving your ear.

Press the on-screen [Melodist] button to launch the Melodist.

The left side of this screen displays the list of the Melodists available, including Pop, Swing, Bossa, Waltz, Rock, Bebop, and Jazz Ballads. The Melodist will generate Intro, Chords, Melody Harmony, Style, and Solos using the group of settings preset with the selected Melodist. Scroll down the list, and pick a Melodist that you'd like to use.

Generate Chords / Generate Melody / Generate Intros / Auto-Titles

The items that are selected will be generated. The convenient preset buttons will automatically set the appropriate settings to popular presets.

The [Chords & Mel.] button will set the checkboxes to Generate Chords & Melody (but not Solos).

The [All] button will generate Chords, Melody, and Solos.

The [Chords] button sets the options to generate Chords only (no Melody).

The [Melody] button will set the options to generate only a Melody (no chords) over an existing chord progression.

Insert Bass Pedals

When selected Pedal Bass figure will be inserted during the intro and at the end of sections.

Solo in Middle Choruses

This will generate an improvisation in the middle choruses of the song.

Allow Style Changes

When selected, this option allows a Melodist to load in the style associated with it. If you don't want Melodists to change the current style that you have loaded, then deselect this option.

Form

This selection box allows you to choose between a song generated with a specific form (AABA 32 bars) or "free" form. The AABA defaults to 32-bar form, which is the most popular song form.

> **Tip:** Melodists may alternatively be set to 64 bars (e.g. Melodist # 18 ColeP 64 bar form). The song "form" refers to the pattern that the verse and chorus repeat. An "AABA 32" form has 4 sections of 8 bars each: the "A" section is the verse and the "B" is the chorus (or bridge) of the song.

Choruses

This determines how many choruses of the song form (Melodies) are to be generated. For example, if set to 5, the Melodist will generate 5 choruses, enough for an intro chorus, ending chorus, and 3 Middle Choruses. The # choruses setting defaults to the # choruses present in the current song.

Defaults   This button sets the Melodist back to its default settings.

Tempo / Auto Tempo

The Tempo Setting determines the Tempo of the song, and defaults to the current tempo of the previous song. If the "Auto-Tempo" is checked, the tempo will be set at the tempo range stored within the Melodist.

A2 Transpose

In songs with an AABA form, it is common for the second "A" section to be transposed. For example, the first "A" section might be in the key of Eb, and the second would be transposed up to the key of Gb. Some Melodists are set to transpose the A2 sections, set the A2 transpose to none if you don't want it transposed. If set to "section plus" it will transpose the A2 section, and might also transpose 2 bars early or 2 bars late.

This area determines the key for the song. If set to "Any Key" the program will randomly pick a key for the song, weighed more heavily toward the popular keys (C, F, etc.). "min. key%" determines what % of songs are generated in minor keys vs. major keys.

If set to 20, then 20% of the songs would be generated in minor keys.

Select whether you want to generate the Whole Song or just part of it. If you select Part of Song, you can specify which bar and chorus to start at, and how many bars to generate.

> **Tip:** You can also set the "Song Key Combo" box to a specific key, or set it to use the current key of the previous song. If you want to generate only part of a song, an easy way to set the range of bars is to highlight/select the bars by dragging the mouse over the chord area prior to launching the Melodist dialog. Then the "Generate" form will be automatically set to "Part of Song" and the range of bars will be set to the selected area.

Replace Thru form

If the form of the song is AABA, you'd normally want the regenerated section to be repeated throughout the form in all of the "A" sections. This option will instruct the Melodist to copy the generated bars to the other "A" sections.

> **Tip:** If you'd like to remove the current Intro, Melody, or Soloist Track, press the [Kill Intro], [Kill Melody] or [Kill Soloist] button.
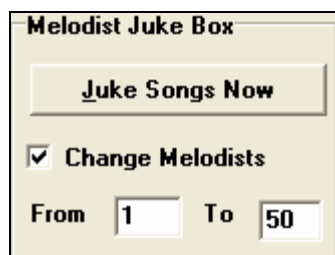
Press the [Search] button and type in part of a Melodist name, memo, style name, or other text associated with a Melodist. This will cause the Melodist selection to change to the next item containing the text. Similarly, you can type in a # of a Melodist and press the [Go To #] button.

The Memo area displays a Memo for the current Melodist, as well as the name of the Database (e.g. MELPOP1.ST2) that the Melodist is based on.

Instrument / Harmony / Style / Change Instruments

Melodists can store patch and harmony settings, and these are displayed in the Instrument area of the Melodist selection screen. You can also set the instrument to change each chorus. You can override the settings of the current Melodist and choose your own patch, harmony and change instrument settings.

The Melodist Juke Box

Press [Juke Songs Now] button to launch the Melodist Jukebox. It will continuously generate new songs and play them in Jukebox fashion. Using the "From…To" setting, you can set the range of Melodists to include in the Jukebox, or keep the Jukebox on the same Melodist by deselecting "Change Melodists."

Write to track

Usually, the Melodist is written to the Melody track. To write it to the Soloist track, perhaps as a counter-melody, then set this setting to Soloist.

The Favorites button allows you to pick a Melodist that you've used recently.

If you'd like to create your own Melodists, or permanently change the settings of existing Melodists, press the [Edit…] button to launch the Melodist Maker.
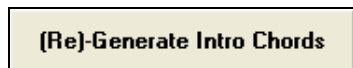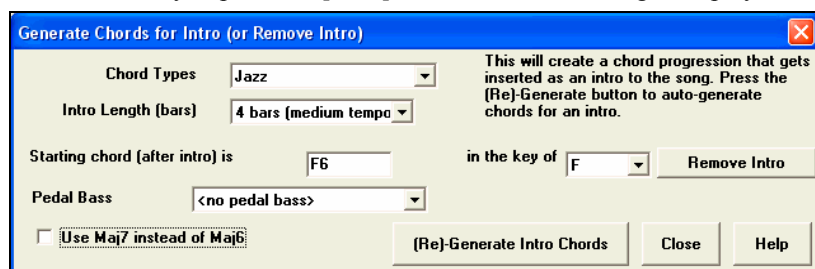
Automatic Intro – Song Intros

With a single button you can generate a 2, 4, or 8-bar intro for any song. The chords will be different each time, and you can keep pressing until you get the progression that you want. The intro generated is an appropriate chord progression in the chosen style of music (Jazz/Pop), with optional pedal bass, and leads correctly to the first chord of the song. Intros can also be removed.

Press the [Intro] button or select *Edit | Intro Bars* to generate an intro.

Once you press the [Intro] button, the Intro Dialog is displayed.

Pressing this button will insert or replace an intro in the song, with the given settings.

Chord Types - You can choose between Jazz and Pop styles of chords.

Intro Length (bars) - This sets the duration of the intro to 2, 4, or 8 bars.

Starting chord (after intro) is - This setting assures the generated intro smoothly transitions into the song.

Remove Intro - Pressing this button removes the intro.

Pedal Bass - Inserts a pedal bass figure throughout the intro.

Use Maj7 instead of Maj6 - Choose between using Maj7 or Maj6 chords.

Automatic Song Title Generation

The Song Title generator names every song that the Melodist writes, if the Auto-Titles checkbox is selected. This feature can be used on its own to suggest titles for your own compositions. It will keep making titles until you get one you like.

Press the [SONG TITLE] button to generate a song title , a new title will appear immediately in the title area of the screen. Click again for another one. Select *Edit | Undo Title* to go back one title.

Fiesta for Coconut Grove

Customizing the song title generator

These word lists stored in a text file called TITL1.TXT. This file has several sections, each with two sets of words that will be put together. You can add new sections, with an adjective section and a noun section. Please see the comments included in the file TITL1.TXT for details on adding text to the file.